

REFLECTIONS on the Separate Traders Proceedings, in Opposition to the Settlement of the African Trade.

THE Affair of the *African* Trade having so long depended in Parliament; and there being Reason to hope that all Disinterested Persons, are now at last Convinced of the Absolute Necessity of Settling the same this Session; The Company humbly Conceive, that all reasonable Methods ought to be taken both by themselves and their Adversaries, for the more easy and effectual Accomplishment of so good and necessary an End: And the Company having by too long Experience observed, That all the Pamphlets, Papers, Speeches, and Discourses of the Separate Traders, instead of Considering the Nature of the Trade, as it is in its self, and Answering the Arguments produced in favour of a Company, are only filled with bitter Invectives, and scurrilous Reflections, against the Management and Managers for the Company; That no time may be lost in such a Material Controversie, as the Preservation of the *African* Trade; and that the Patience of that Honourable Assembly, before whom both Parties are allowed to be heard, may not be tired, the Company Humbly beg leave to observe,

That when ever they have had the Honour to appear at the Bar of the Honourable House of Commons, and in all their Papers, Speeches and Discourses, they have ever avoided to mix Private or Personal Reflections, with an Affair of so Publick a Concern; and have made it their Principal Endeavour to Demonstrate the Necessity of Carrying on the *African* Trade by a Joynt-Stock, from the *Nature, Importance, and uncommon Circumstances* of the said Trade; This is what the Company always have proposed and still are ready to Demonstrate to the Honourable House of Commons.

On the other side the Separate Traders, in all their Pamphlets, Papers, Speeches and Discourses; instead of Answering the Arguments, for an *African* Company and shewing how it may Certainly and Advantageously be preserved and carried on in an open Way; have made it their Chief Study, how to divert such Reasonable Expectations, by filling up their Papers, stuffing their Speeches and Discourses, both at the Bar of the Honourable House of Commons, and Else where, with Reflections on the Companies Past Misfortunes, and Scurrilous Invectives, against the Present Managers.

Thus for Instance, in several of Their Papers, &c. They have not scrupled to call them *Pirates, Traytors, Cheats, Stock-Jobbers, Exchange-Alley-Men, and Bankrupts*; They have Affirmed that the *Managers* of the Company have called in Money to Divide among one another, that they understand no other Trade than what is Practiced in *Exchange-Alley*; That they neither know nor design any thing, but their own Private Interest; That they are Men of Art and Trick, Dressed up in Bears Skins, with many other such Scandalous Epithets and Characters. All which as they are Manifestly False and Groundless, so what Relation they have to the Grand Debate about settling the *African-Trade*, is hard to Conceive, unless they hope under the Umbrage of Noise and Calumny to Carry their Point; which Methods, however well they may have succeeded in, and how much soever they may have been Indulged in heretofore; The Company hope from the Justice and Wisdom of the Present House of Commons; That the Separate-Traders will be obliged when they appear before them to Confine all their Speeches and Arguments to the Nature of the Trade it's self, or if They shall think fit to offer any thing against either the Management or Managers of the Present Company, to bring good proof for what they Alledge, or else be Contented to be Reputed those Ignorant, Selfish, and ill designing Men themselves.

As the Company have been so often, and Maliciously Attacked by the Separate-Traders, both in their Estates and Characters, they think themselves obliged to Declare so much both in Deference to the Honourable House of Commons, and in Justice to themselves; And as the Managers of the Company are entirely conscious, that they have ever Acted with
more

more Regard to the Publick Good and the Conservation of the Trade, than their own Private Interest; so it is hoped it will not be Unseasonable to Subjoyn the Names of the Members of the Present Court of Assistants of the Royal African Company of England, which alone may be sufficient to Confute the Impotent Malice of all their Adversaries.

The Members of the Court of Assistants of the **ROYAL
AFRICAN-COMPANY** *of England, for
the Year 1711.*

The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty Governour.

Sir William Humfreys, Knight and Alderman, Sub-Governour.

Sir Jonathan Andrewes Knight, Deputy-Governour.

James Blake, Esq;

John Cooke, Esq;

John Cutting, Esq;

Mr. John Campbell.

Sir Francis Dashwood, Knt. & Bar.

Mr. William Elliot.

Sir William Fazakerley, Knt.

Sir James Gray, Bar.

Sir John Germain, Bar.

Col. William Grahame.

Mr. Daniel Hays.

Col. Joseph Jory.

Thomas Lake, Esq;

William Lancaster, Esq;

John Morgan, Esq;

Mr. William Mead.

Mr. Richard Mostyn.

Thomas Pindar, Esq;

Mr. Stephen Pendarves.

Anthony Reynolds, Esq;

Mr. Henry Raper.

Sir. Samuel Stanier, Knt. & Ald.

Fisher Tench, Esq;

Robert Vansittart, Esq;

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